

FIGHT HELD WITH VILLA

FIRST CONFLICT
WITH VILLA MEN

Seventh Cavalry of the United States Army is Engaged in Battle.

VILLA WOUNDED IN THE LEG

Five Hundred Villa Forces Lose Their Commander and Thirty Men in Fight.

EL PASO, March 31.—Mexican Consul Garcia announced Friday that he had been informed by General Gavira, Carranza commander at Juarez, that the latter had received word that the American troops had been engaged in battle with Villa forces.

According to General Gavira's information, which was supplied in a telegram from Lieutenant Colonel Refugio Davila at Casas Grandes, the fight took place Thursday at San Geronimo, between the Seventh Cavalry and 500 Villa forces, the latter losing their commander Eladio Fernandez and thirty men. The Americans suffered several wounded.

Colonel Davila also wired General Gavira, according to Consul Garcia, that confirmation had been received that Villa has been wounded in the leg in the last fight and is in hiding north of Guerrero.

CARRANZA GARRISON IS WHIPPED BY VILLA

EL PASO, Tex., March 31.—Francisco Villa has recruited his forces to formidable numbers in his flight before the pursuing columns of American cavalry, it is reported, and is cornered will be in a position to give stout resistance.

Advices received here Friday by Mexican officials stated that Villa and his men had soundly whipped the Carranza garrison at Guerrero under the command of General Cavazos, whose forces were said to number only fifty soldiers. Villa, according to the information obtained by Mexican Consul Garcia, still occupied Guerrero.

Information in the hands of Major General Finston at San Antonio and made public Thursday night was that Villa had killed 172 men—everyone in the Guerrero garrison, and that the bandit was now near the headwaters of the Santa Maria river. Since passing southward of Nacajuca, having temporarily eluded his pursuers, Villa is reported to have adopted every means to strengthen his command which earlier in his flight he had scattered in small bands because the American cavalry were hot on his trail.

Reports that Villa was headed eastward toward his old headquarters at Sanders were current Friday. If the bandit had turned east or north the American troops may be able to encircle him and cut off a further retreat to the south while General Gutierrez, operating toward the west with the Carranza troops from Chihuahua, would be in a position to confront Villa and force him to give battle.

MASONRY TO MEET.

A special communication of Hermon lodge No. 6 of the Masonic fraternity will be held at 7 o'clock this evening in the Masonic temple for degree work and the transaction of important business. Members are urged to attend.

RATE DOUBLED.

CHARLESTON, March 31.—In an effort to relieve the car shortage which has seriously hampered the West Virginia coal situation for several months the public service commission Friday entered an order permitting all railroads in the state to increase demurrage rates from \$1 to \$2 a day. The order becomes effective April 1 and will continue in force until June 15.

FRENCH RETIRING
BEFORE GERMANS

At the Village of Malancourt Where a Fierce Night Attack is Made.

PARIS, March 31.—The Germans delivered a fierce night attack on three sides of the village of Malancourt, says the French official statement issued Friday, and the French retired from the village proper, which was in ruins, but continue to hold its outskirts.

Fierce infantry fighting lasted for the entire night, before the French withdrew from the untenable positions in the village of Malancourt, the official statement adds. The Germans again tried to carry by assault the positions, which the French had won back in the Ayocourt wood, but they were repulsed. Part of the Meuse the night was calm.

ALLIED STATESMEN AND WARRIORS IN CONFERENCE AT PARIS



Left to right, top: General Joffre, Premier Briand and Premier Asquith. Bottom: Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia, Premier Salandra and Major General Sir W. R. Robertson.

The greatest council of war held since the mighty struggle in Europe began has just taken place in Paris. It was presided over by Premier Briand of France, and among those who took part in the sessions were Premier Asquith of England, Premier Salandra of Italy, General Sir W. R. Robertson, chief of staff of the British army, and Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia. It was agreed at the conference that the entente allies should work together in greater harmony than has been the case hitherto.

YOUNG GERMAN SAYS
HE IS REALLY A SPY

Declares He Got His Instructions to Go Aboard the Ship and Blow It Up.

QUITE A DARING EXPLOIT

Will Likely Be Taken to British Possessions in the West Indies to Be Tried.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS)

LEWES, Del., March 31.—The young German who captured the British steamer Matopos and terrorized its crew of fifty-six men on Wednesday night shortly after the ship had sailed out of New York harbor with railroad supplies for the Russian government, declared Friday that he was a spy for the German government. Ernest Schiller, the prisoner, veried from all the excitement he had undergone in his efforts to escape from the steamer Thursday after he had held the crew in his power with pistols all of Wednesday night, threw himself upon a cot in the Lewes jail early Friday and sought sleep.

"Yes, I am a spy for the German government," he said. "You can believe it or not—it makes no difference to me. I got my instructions from the German government to go aboard the ship and blow it up to prevent its cargo from reaching Russia. I could have blown it up but the captain's plea for his wife and daughter was too much for me and I hadn't the heart to do it. I am ready to take the consequences but I ask that they keep me ashore instead of sending me back to the ship for the captain could take me in charge."

Schiller had been told that as his daring exploit occurred outside the three-mile limit he would in all likelihood be taken to British possessions in the West Indies for trial for piracy. Federal authorities and representatives from the British government came here Friday to examine Schiller and to decide what to do with him.

An examination into Schiller's mental condition will be made. Those who have talked with him believe that he is irresponsible and that his story of his career is not true. Captain Richard Bergner, of the (Continued on page 3.)

AN EARLY BIRD.

William E. Starcher, justice of the peace, enjoys the distinction of being the first candidate to file formal application in the office of the circuit court for a place on the June primary election ballot as required by law. He announces himself for re-nomination.

CONVENTION FOR
WHEELING MAY 4

TO DECLARE DIVIDEND.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS)
UNIONTOWN, Pa., March 31.—Receiver John H. Strawn, of the defunct First National Bank of Uniontown, has sent to Washington, D. C., for signature of the comptroller of currency 3,500 checks for a ten per cent dividend to be paid the depositors. As soon as these checks are returned from Washington they will be sent to the depositors.

SUBMARINE

Situation is Gone Over by Stone and Flood with Secretary of State Lansing.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS)
WASHINGTON, March 31.—Chairman Stone, of the Senate foreign relations committee, and Chairman Flood, of the House foreign affairs committee, went over the submarine situation fully with Secretary Lansing Friday at an early conference. The situation with Germany was described officially as not being "imminent" and it was said that the two committee chairmen had not come to the state department by appointment but had come separately seeking information for the guidance of members of Congress.

CROP STUFFING

Of Live Poultry Will Be Officially Barred in the City of New York.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS)
NEW YORK, March 31.—An order forbidding the sale of live poultry with food in the crop at the time of sale will be put into effect Monday in New York City. The order was ordered by John J. Dillon, state commissioner of foods and markets, who says that several million consumers suffer in health and purse from the widespread practice of stuffing the crops of birds to increase the weight.

SOCIAL POSTPONED.

The hat social which was to have been given tonight at the home of Mrs. Harry Green by the progressive board of the African Methodist Episcopal church has been postponed until further notice.

BROOKS IS PRAISED
BY THE EXPONENT
IN EFFULGENT WAY

Here is the Exponent's own estimate of Chief Harry L. Brooks, as published by it December 15 last, and the Telegram takes pleasure in reproducing such effulgent praise of an officer who deserves it all and more too, if it be possible to give more:

H. L. Brooks, the popular and efficient chief of police of Clarksburg, is not only an excellent officer, but he is probably the only chief of police in the country who holds his office by reason of election by the people. That is the way Clarksburg's chief is chosen—by direct vote of the people.

Mr. Brooks was born in the neighboring city of Grafton, and came to Clarksburg when quite young. He attended the Clarksburg high school, and in 1901 became a member of the police force of the city under the administration of the Hon. Isaac Kelley, mayor. As a police officer, Mr. Brooks served the city faithfully and well, being devoted to duty, considerate in his treatment of those against whom he was called upon to enforce the law's decrees, a terror to confirmed evil-doers, but a friend always to the unfortunate and oppressed. These qualities early attracted attention to him, and when he gained sufficient experience as a policeman the people of the city called him to the higher station of chief. This was almost seven years ago, and they have been re-electing him with each recurring year since.

So excellent has been his administration of the office that Mr. Brooks has been spoken of as the "ideal chief of police," a characterization that, in the minds of many people is well deserved. He has elevated the standard of service in the city, making merit the basis of reward, wiping out unfairness and injustice wherever possible. A humane man himself, he will not tolerate cruelty in any of his subordinates; "third degree" methods, or the extortion of testimony from those in custody he will not countenance; cowardice or brutality he will not allow.

Mr. Brooks was elected president of the West Virginia Association of Police Chiefs in October of the present year. He is a member of the International Association of Police Chiefs, embracing membership in the associations of the United States, Canada, Great Britain and other countries. These connections throw him in close touch with the best thought of the world in the administration of such offices as that he holds, and have been of inestimable value to him in the way of detecting criminals, ferreting out crime and protecting the interests of the people of his city.

Chief Brooks is a man of magnificent physique and commanding presence, and is gifted with an unusual power of command over men. It has been said of him that his mere presence was sufficient to quell any riot of ordinary dimensions. He is brave physically, and his moral courage is beyond challenge. Big of body, big of brain, big of heart, Mr. Brooks may well be designated the ideal police chief.

Signal Towerman is
Absolved from Blame

For New York Central Train Wreck Which Occurred near Amherst, O.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS)
CLEVELAND, March 31.—That both sections of train No. 86 were late and were trying to make up lost time was testified to by F. E. Bauech, night dispatcher on duty when the wreck of the three New York Central trains occurred near Amherst early Wednesday and an allegation that the block system was defective testified to by Albert H. Ernst, signal towerman, were the principal features developed Friday at the first formal hearing by state and federal authorities into the causes that led to the disaster.

Bauech also gave testimony to the effect that the road had experienced difficulty several times during the last winter principally in bad weather, when the signals either failed to work or did so inefficiently. Ernst stuck to his story previously related in which he asserted it was impossible that he could have been to blame for the (Continued on page 3.)

MESSAGE TO ARREST
GRADY WEBB IS SENT

While the Man in Jail in Atlanta as a Train Bandit is a Harrison Brother.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS)
ATLANTA, Ga., March 31.—Post-office inspectors here who for weeks have been trying to arrest members of the so-called "Harrison gang" in connection with several train robberies, Friday announced that the man in jail here and known as Jim Bohannon, really is Charles Harrison, one of the three brothers under arrest.

Henry Grady Webb, a well-known young man of Birmingham and Atlanta, left Birmingham just before the inspectors expected to arrest him Thursday. A message to arrest Webb Friday was sent throughout the South.

Investigation of the robbery of the Baltimore and Ohio train near Central Station, W. Va., October 8, 1915, in which several thousand dollars in unmarked bank notes were stolen, led the officers from Grand Rapids to New Orleans. It resulted in the arrest of Jess Harrison at San Antonio, Richard Harrison at Grand Rapids, Carl Rentz, a nephew of the Harrisons, at (Continued on page 3.)

LACK OF TOOLS

Will Compel 3,500 Men Employed in Shell Shops to Quit Work Soon.

(BY ASSOCIATED PRESS)
PITTSBURGH, March 31.—Unless the strike of the tool repair men in the plants of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company is settled by Saturday night, it was stated Friday, 3,500 men employed in the shell shops will be compelled to quit work because of a lack of tools. Eight hundred men were directly affected by Thursday's walkout which was precipitated when the management refused an increase of ten per cent in wages and double time for extra work, Sundays and holidays.

IS CONVALESCING.

Mrs. Jasper C. Ritter, of Makin, who underwent a surgical operation at St. Mary's hospital a few days ago is rapidly convalescing. Her many friends will be glad to learn this.